

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

22 November 2019

Ms. Emma Best
MuckRock
DEPT MR 63382
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2019-00384

Dear Ms. Best:

This is a final response to your 5 November 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **materials relating to U.S. efforts in Saigon “to avoid the threat of a ‘one party’ Senate election in South Vietnam,” including but not limited to an unredacted copy of the Agency report referred in to LOC-HAK-35-4-24-2, as well as embassy reports about the issue.** We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended.

We located and completed a re-review of the document responsive to your request and determined that no additional information can be released, with deletions continuing to be made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). A copy of the document is enclosed. Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

With respect to the remainder of your request, we completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and did not locate any records. Although our searches were reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents, and it is highly unlikely that repeating those searches would change the result, you nevertheless have the legal right to appeal the finding of no records.

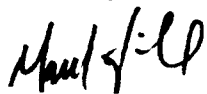
As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA’s FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. Please note, contacting CIA’s FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

To contact CIA directly or to appeal the CIA's response to the Agency Release Panel:	To contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) for mediation or with questions:
Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC 20505 Information and Privacy Coordinator (703) 613-3007 (Fax) (703) 613-1287 (CIA FOIA Public Liaison / FOIA Hotline)	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001 (202) 741-5770 (877) 864-6448 (202) 741-5769 (Fax) ogis@nara.gov

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact the CIA's FOIA Hotline at (703) 613-1287.

Sincerely,



Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION

June 28, 1973

SECRET/EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. KISSINGER
FROM: WILLIAM L. STEARMAN
SUBJECT: Embassy Efforts to Avoid a "One Party"
Senate Election in South Vietnam

Attached at Tab A is a report from the CIA describing efforts we made in Saigon to avoid the threat of a "one party" Senate election in South Vietnam scheduled for August. To our knowledge none of these activities were cleared by the NSC, and this report represents our first word on what appears to have been a major intrusion on internal GVN politics.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

The Agency and the Embassy clearly were responding to the possibility that only Thieu's Democracy Party would contest the planned election for one-half of the Senate's membership. Other parties were not expected to participate as a result of a tight filing schedule which, they claimed, did not provide sufficient time to negotiate formation of lists and their fears that the election would be loaded in Thieu's favor. In a memo of June 16 (2 days before the filing cutoff), the Agency had alerted us to the possibility of a one party election but had not indicated the actions it was then taking to avert this contingency. (In any event the memo was OBE by the time we received it. The filed date had passed and four states registered.)

Although no opposition or independent slates filed for the election, four groups (two associated with Thieu and two unknown, probably GVN-inspired lists) registered. The Embassy has commented that Thieu's lists are certain of victory and that he therefore will control the formerly independent Upper House. Significantly, the Embassy has also apportioned the blame for this largely no-contest election to both the administration and the politicians, who had ample warning of the legal filing schedule yet -- apparently without harassment -- failed to compose their own differences to file a joint Senate slate.

SECRET/EYES ONLY

XGDS 5B (2) by Auth CIA

21 JUN 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable G. McMurtrie Godley
Assistant Secretary for East Asian
and Pacific Affairs
Department of State

Colonel Richard Kennedy
National Security Council Staff

SUBJECT: Efforts to Avert a "One-Party" Senate Election in
South Vietnam

1. On 16 June 1973, we sent you an assessment of President Nguyen Van Thieu's probable strategy in the Senate elections scheduled for August 1973. The following is a review of the efforts made by the Mission in Vietnam to avert a "one-party" election.

2. On 26 August 1973, the South Vietnamese voters will elect 31 Senators, or approximately half the total membership of the Senate. Anticipating a possible one party election and remembering the damage done to the Government of Vietnam (GVN) image here in the United States and abroad by the uncontested presidential election of 1971, the U. S. Government sought to encourage broad participation in the upcoming Senate elections.

3. Diplomatic representations impressed upon President Thieu and other GVN leaders the desirability of the presence of opposition slates in the election so as to prove that the voters would indeed be offered a genuine choice. The GVN did remove the requirement that candidates for the Senate had to be sponsored by political parties which had qualified under the Political Parties Decree Law 660.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS INVOLVED

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~
~~EYES ONLY~~

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS:

Theodore G. Shackley

Theodore G. Shackley

WARNING NOTICE
UNCLASSIFIED SOURCES
AND PERSONS INVOLVED